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A Memorial

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your affectionate father
Samuel Johnson

SAMUEL JOHNSON

A Memorial

MARCH 20, 1826 — AUGUST 13, 1899

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[Compiled by Wolcott H. and Arthur S. Johnson.]

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NOTE

THERE is no question but that our lives are greatly influenced by those with whom we associate. Consequently it is well to perpetuate as much as possible the memory of one who, to an unusual degree, has won the respect and love of his contemporaries, in the hope that this may prove a source of strength and inspiration to his descendants.

To this end we have brought together a number of the tributes written in memory of our beloved and esteemed father, not with the thought that we could give in this way a complete history of his life, but that by means of this collection those who have not had the good fortune to know him personally may obtain a glimpse into the sterling nobility of his character.

We thank all those who have written these tributes for allowing us to reprint them, and in loving remembrance of our father we dedicate

this volume to his grandchildren, with the hope that the testimony herein given may be an inspiration to them for noble living and service.

WOLCOTT H. JOHNSON.

ARTHUR S. JOHNSON.

March 20, 1900.

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“The pilgrim they laid in a large upper chamber, whose window opened toward the sun-rising. The name of that chamber was Peace; where he slept till break of day, and then he awoke and sang.”

SAMUEL JOHNSON

IN the number of the "Boston Evening Transcript" published Monday, August 14, 1899, appeared the following memorial of Samuel Johnson by a lifelong friend and partner in business, William Endicott, Esq.:—

"The readers of the 'Transcript' will learn with much regret of the death of Mr. Samuel Johnson, of the firm of C. F. Hovey & Co., which occurred yesterday morning, at his Nahant residence.

"Mr. Johnson was born in this city March 20, 1826, and has resided here during his long life. His father was the late Samuel Johnson, for many years of the firm of J. C. Howe & Co., and his mother was Charlotte A. Howe, a sister of Messrs. Jabez C. and George Howe, both prominent in the business affairs of those days. He received his education at the Chauncy Hall School, and at the age of sixteen entered the store of Messrs. Hovey, Williams & Co., then importers and wholesale dealers in dry goods in Water Street. In 1846 the firm

removed to Winter Street and, having admitted Messrs. John Chandler and Richard C. Greenleaf as partners, established there the retail business which has since continued, the style of the firm having been changed in 1848 to that of C. F. Hovey & Co. In 1850 Mr. Johnson was admitted as a partner, with Messrs. Henry Woods and Wm. Endicott, Jr., a connection which has continued with unbroken harmony for nearly half a century. Although always interested in the details of his own business, for the last twenty years his time and attention have been principally given to engagements of a fiduciary and semi-public character. He has been one of the trustees of several of the largest estates of the city, and has administered these important functions with conscientious fidelity. With these he assumed the charge of numerous and unpaid smaller trusts, and by his excellent judgment and absolute integrity has lifted the burden from many who were unable to care for themselves.

“Among the public duties that have been confided to him there may be named: For many years he was chairman of the standing committee of the Old South Church and Society, and subsequently for twelve years its treasurer. So important and devoted has been

his service to this church and society that its members, with one accord, will surely say that to no one among their number is the society more indebted than to Mr. Johnson for its present prominent and creditable position among the churches of Boston. He has long been one of the trustees of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, of the Provident Institution for Savings, the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, the Mount Auburn Cemetery, and the Wheaton Seminary, one of the directors of the Webster National Bank, and a member of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has also filled the offices of president of the Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society, the Congregational Society, the Boston Dispensary, and vice-president of the Home for Aged Women. To all these various duties he was faithful and true, devoting the energies of a warm heart and a well-balanced mind to affairs always important and often complicated, with the same attention that he would have given to his private interests.

"He was married in 1859 to Miss Mary Stoddard, daughter of Deacon Charles Stoddard. Mrs. Johnson died in 1891, leaving two sons who now survive their father.

“The most conspicuous traits of Mr. Johnson’s character were his serene and sunny temperament and his religious faith. With him everything was for the best, and when clouds obscured his sky he was always confident that the sun would soon shine again. Many there are who could testify to the thoughtful act or sympathetic word which Mr. Johnson never failed to give to those who came to him. His was a heart ready to sympathize with rich and poor alike, and his the ready hand to give generously if material aid were needed. His lifelong associates, as they look for an example of justice, integrity, generosity, and devotion to duty will always recall with affection and respect the name of Samuel Johnson.”

Other local papers contained obituary notices and editorials. From these we select the following; the first appeared in the “Commercial Bulletin” of Saturday, August 19, and the second in the “Evening Transcript” of Monday, August 14.

“On Wednesday last every large dry-goods establishment in Boston closed at noon. The house of C. F. Hovey & Co. was closed all day. Congressmen and college presidents,

clergymen and bankers, saleswomen and cash boys dropped their summer holiday and gathered in one of Boston's greatest churches to mourn the loss of a friend.

"The simple life of the old-time Boston merchant has gone out of date, but it was well worth the living.

"Samuel Johnson never asked for political office, though he was as conscientious in the performance of his political duties as in every other act of his life. His simple nature forbade display. His deep religious convictions forbade the wilder ventures of speculation. Strong in his devotion to his church, he made that church a mighty factor for liberal Christianity; ardent in his love for his native city, his face was set against those who would betray her interests for private gain; broad in his fellowship with humanity, his counsel was sought not only by those who entrusted to him vast financial interests, but by the poor and unfortunate, who rested securely on his strong arm.

"He never believed in posthumous charity. A large share of his income, far more than the conventional tenth, was yearly given in a quiet charity that was bounded by neither race, nor creed, nor nation. His large fortune was obtained by no lucky stroke, by no rash specula-

tion, but by economy, sheer honest labor, and an unusual share of keen, shrewd common sense. No man more nearly led the perfect life prescribed by the Christian religion. Few men have led more nobly useful lives. Few have led happier lives. None have been more widely mourned than this hard-headed, gentle-hearted Boston merchant, who sought his own happiness in the happiness of others.

“More than one, heart-sick with disappointment, failure, and loss, found in his calm, fatherly support the ‘shadow of a great rock in a weary land.’

“Others of more modern mould may be cited as brilliant examples of a certain kind of success, but no man in New England has left a nobler type of a successful life than Samuel Johnson, merchant, of Boston.”

“Within the past year death has made heavy demands upon the ranks of Boston’s most distinguished citizens, and the fatal termination of the illness of Mr. Samuel Johnson, of the firm of C. F. Hovey & Co., at his summer home at Nahant yesterday morning, makes a conspicuous addition to the city’s losses in this respect. Mr. Johnson was one of the finest types of the old Boston merchant. He pos-

sessed in a high degree business sagacity and natural dignity, and that spotless integrity which is greater and nobler than all the factitious honors that it is possible to acquire. He was charitable in thought, word, and deed, but while his philanthropy found frequent occasions for wise exercise, it was never on dress parade. His public spirit led him to take an active and helpful interest in religious, social, and municipal affairs. Back of his high purposes there was a rich endowment of common sense which made his judgment and counsel of rare value upon all matters with which he was associated. For nearly sixty years he had been in active business and a notable figure in various spheres of influence and usefulness. To all this he added a kindly, almost benignant personality which attracted to him old and young, as an adviser and a friend. Few men have passed so many years of life as he, having so little waste to be accounted for at its close."

MEMORIAL SERMON

ON Sunday morning, October 29, 1899, the Rev. George A. Gordon, D. D., preached the following memorial discourse in the Old South Church.

“Barnabas, which is, being interpreted, son of consolation.”
— ACTS iv. 36.

The notices of Barnabas in the New Testament are few but significant. We know that he was a man of breadth in his beliefs; he believed with Stephen and Paul that the gospel is for the whole world and upon equal terms. He was a devoted friend of the local church; and he was one of the first of foreign missionaries. The fact that he was called Jupiter by a wild tribe in Asia Minor makes it evident that he was a man of commanding presence. That he had a nature of great positiveness and intensity is proved by his conflict with Paul. Against even that masterful man Barnabas held his ground. But the most significant account of him is given in the passage from

which the text is taken. He was a man of unusual wealth and of unusual liberality; he was, besides, a person full of hopeful wisdom, of reasonable good cheer, of sound and victorious comfort. His Hebrew name was Joseph; but this was general and vague. He stood for power, generosity, public service, irresistible good cheer; and so the Apostles named him after the Comforter whom Christ promised, and whose child he seemed to be, Son of Comfort, Son of Consolation.

Have we not here the type of our dear and honored friend Samuel Johnson? He was broad in his views of life, and he held the gospel as the gospel for mankind. He was known as the lover of this church; at the same time his concern for foreign missions was his chief religious interest. He, too, was a man of large and noble presence. He was a man of profound convictions, of quiet but of extraordinary intensity and tenacity. His matured judgment he would surrender or compromise to no man. Eminence did not in the least overawe him when his own conscience was clear. He was the possessor of unusual wealth; and in the use of it no one was more spontaneously or conscientiously generous. But beyond all he was a man of genial wisdom, of sane and

sweet sympathy, of true and unfailing comfort. He was many things to his kindred, to this church, and to this community; but above all else, he was everywhere a person of sweetness and light, a true messenger of the Comforter, a son of consolation.

The outward framework of our friend's life is a tale that is swiftly told. He was born in Boston on the 20th of March, 1826; he was educated at the Chauncy Hall School; he entered business at the age of sixteen; he became a member of the firm of C. F. Hovey & Co. in 1850, and this connection he maintained to his death; in 1859 he left one of the best of homes to found another, that for three and thirty years was to prove equally rich and beautiful; in 1860 he joined the Old South Church, and henceforth religion was the transfiguring spirit in his entire career; he served for a long period on the standing committee of the Old South Society, and was for many years its chairman, in which capacity he felt that he did the chief work of his life. The removal of the church from its site on Milk and Washington streets to its present location, and the serious litigation in which the society became involved, took place during his chairmanship of the standing committee. For the last twelve years he was

the society's treasurer. For a generation he was one of Boston's princely givers to all good causes; and he was one of her best citizens. In recognition of his eminence and worth as a citizen, in 1897 Williams College conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. Until last February it may be said that he was a man of almost perfect health. Suddenly the weakness developed which no medical skill, however competent and devoted, and no resolution upon his part, could overcome. In the early morning of the 13th of August his noble life of seventy-three years and five months was sweetly rounded with a sleep.

Thus briefly may these leading outward events be rehearsed; but who shall picture the world that lies behind them? One passes the house in which he lived for more than five and thirty years. Its character can be told in a few sentences. But the interior history of it — the hospitality that made it beautiful, the spirit that exalted it, the generous soul that looked out through it upon all the winds of heaven, the faith and the hope and the love that dwelt within it — cannot be told. The house is there, and it is in loving hands; but they that looked out of the windows be darkened. The house is there, and the eye can take it in at a glance;

but the world of character for which it stood, only reverent and affectionate sympathy, with years for opportunity, can adequately measure. Similarly the outward framework of life is but a symbol. To reach reality one must look within. The vital purpose, the living victory, the inward spirit, is the sacred truth. And the more than epic movement of a soul, in penitence and in hope, into the settled sense of God's call and life's vocation, under the baptism of the Spirit and by the path of fasting and temptation, on through doubt issuing in larger faith, service for righteousness become the psalm of existence, sorrow passing into sacred regret, and finally into thankfulness and trust, until love knows that it cannot fail — that interior movement of the heart in God can be conceived, lovingly figured in imagination, piously rehearsed in silence, but it cannot be written. In dealing with the highest, the impossible meets one at every step. It is with one who listens to the significance of a genuine human life as it was with Paul. One hears unspeakable things. Only a fragment of the whole, a segment of the full circle of truth, can be described. And against this great sacred background of our friend's life, covered by grateful, reverent silence, I shall try to outline

a few of the characteristics that made him a memorable man.

We cherish the memory of Samuel Johnson because he was an eminently good man. He had an excellent inheritance. To his father, who was for many years a faithful servant of the Old South Society, and a man of sterling honor and straightforwardness, he was indebted for his rapid and reliable judgment and for his spontaneous generosity. His wonderful temperament he owed to his mother; and in him there blossomed, naturally as it were, her dignity, self-control, and fineness of feeling. Nothing was more striking in his nature than this reproduction of the mother in the son. Her liberal spirit, quiet courage, noble reserve, comprehensive family love and devotion to public good; her hopefulness and youthfulness and serene sadness all seemed to live in him. To his last hour, in his highest mood, in his best service, he was the speaking memorial of his mother.

This admirable inheritance became his own through the surrender of his will to God. He believed in God with an honest and a serious belief. With a solemn sincerity he accepted Jesus Christ as the inapproachable, and yet the true ideal of his life. He loved righteousness

and hated iniquity. He besought God daily, and with a great insistent desire for inward truth and honor. And the abundant sowing came to the bountiful harvest. The long years of severe self-discipline, of face-to-face appeal to God, of eager use of the appointed helps to the Christian life,—the study of the Bible, personal communion with God directed by Bible study, and public worship; the issue of prosperity held as a trust, the sanctuary of sorrow, the benign outcome of interest in the kingdom of God, the gracious result of love given freely to many lives and to all good causes; and finally the mysterious mellowing hand of time turned his whole nature into an excellence, rich, rare, beautiful. From the multitude of tributes to his goodness I mention but two. Alpheus Hardy, himself a remarkable man, said to me fifteen years ago this autumn: "I have known Samuel Johnson for forty years, and he has the heart of a nobleman." And speaking for those who knew him best, Mr. William Endicott has said: "His lifelong associates, as they look for an example of justice, integrity, generosity, and devotion to duty will always recall with affection and respect the name of Samuel Johnson." He had abundant wealth; and he had an equally

abundant love. His religion was his joy. His heart went out of its own accord and fullness toward all the great interests of man.

We love to recall him because he was an unusually interesting man. He was interesting because he was so large and so kind. He appeared as if he had strength enough to trample men into the earth; and at the same time he looked as if he had not the slightest inclination to do it. This was the impression that he made upon people. The union in him of strength and gentleness, of bulk and benignity, excited and sustained interest. Thus it was that while he was not a public speaker, and seldom took part in the great religious gatherings of the denomination, he was always a noticeable figure. His large and genial presence filled a great space in the esteem and love of his brethren.

He had a keen and fertile sense of humor. A rich fund of entertaining and pertinent anecdote seemed to be always at his command. His sense of humor saved him from irritation under the incessant appeals for help that come to every man of wealth known to be generous. He was a large and cheerful giver, but he saw that the available benevolence of the world is unequal to the demand. And this inequality

did not sadden or harden him. He did not allow it to irritate him, or to make him deal other than kindly with the good men whom he could not aid. He accepted it as part of the limitation of life, as being in itself a kind of sad humor.

His humor was full of logical strategy. Were this the place for it, many bright instances of this happy trait could be given. A wholly unreasonable demand would sometimes be evaded by asking if the person making the request did not consider it a privilege to be allowed to give to the object in view, and having secured a strong affirmative reply, his rejoinder would be: "Do you not see that it would be wicked in me to take away the privilege from those to whom it really belongs?" This fertility of humorous device amused even the person whose purpose was disappointed. It enabled the possessor of it to overcome, without vexation, indeed with the utmost good nature, the appeals which it would have been wrong to honor.

In a far higher way his sense of humor did him important service. It put life and its varied experiences into true perspective. He saw that a large part of the worry and sore feeling of men was needless; that it came from

an overworked imagination; that it was an instance of bad perspective. Men photograph infant troubles in the form of terrible giants. The business reverse is allowed to occupy and control the mind; the single disappointment assumes the magnitude of a general defeat; the unsympathetic behavior of a few people becomes the mood of the entire community; the lying gossip of society is seriously regarded as something that everybody knows to be true. In this way comes the needless and deplorable suffering that eats the heart out of life.

The cure for it is the sense of humor; the power to put it all in true perspective with the rest of experience. The single black cloud must be viewed against the infinite brightness of the day. The few harsh words must be reckoned with the many kind words; the small reverse must be seen by the side of the large success; the gossip of society must be estimated in the presence of the general justice and honor. The reduction of one's troubles to their normal infinitesimal proportions, the setting of them thus reduced in the presence of the high vocation of life and its issues of strength, content, and hope; the power to laugh at them, and at one's self for being vexed over trifles and fictions, is the outcome of the

sacred sense of humor. No gift is more precious, none is closer, to the religious spirit. For when Paul says: "Our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," he is treading the world and its trouble under foot in the power of Christian humor. And I have never met a man who had this gift in greater perfection than Samuel Johnson. He saw things instinctively according to their real magnitudes and relations. He saw the evil of life; he saw also its vaster good. He felt deeply the sin and the strife of the world; but yet more deeply he was conscious of the Infinite mercy and peace surrounding all. He was therefore able to gather amusement from his observation of the disproportions and distortions into which men throw the varied content of experience. This sense of perspective in experience, this happy gift of humor, had much to do with the sanity of his judgment, the serenity of his disposition, the hopefulness of his outlook upon the life of mankind. It is needless to add that it made him one of the wholesomest and pleasantest of friends.

He was a man of refined interests. He was naturally drawn to beautiful things. He loved the best music. He was extremely fond of

flowers, and he was always on the outlook for the first mayflower and for the last gentian. For wild orchids he had a passion, and would often wander into dangerous places that he might secure them. His delight in the sea was beautiful to witness, and in the sea he found the only sport for which he cared. His love of nature was a never-failing enthusiasm. The luxuriant peace of the woods, the refreshing expanse of the ocean, the wonder of sunset, the solemn beauty of the stars, never wanted in him a devout lover. He was fond of the society of educated and eminent men, and of this class many were among his lifelong friends. The best books were upon his table, and he was, for one so occupied with other things, a generous reader. All these refined and refining interests told upon the man. And they contributed to that attractiveness which we all felt in him.

The most interesting feature in his character, however, was his wonderfully refined and constant sympathy. He was one of the most tender-hearted of men. He had a wide circle of friends, and I have never known him to forget one that was in sorrow. He was never tired of making the distinction between a fat and a lean sorrow. Those who had sickness

in their homes, and who had wealth to alleviate it, belonged to his own class. He felt for them, and he would devise for their comfort the gentle ministries that can never be, even in the richest homes, in excess of human need. But he reserved the full tenderness of his nature for those who had to bear sickness and poverty together, old age and want, bereavement and destitution. There was the lean sorrow; and among such he went about doing good. For this high quality of gentle, refined, womanly sympathy he was regarded in many homes as a beloved friend, as a near relative, as a second father. Altogether the largeness and kindness of the man, his rich sense of humor, his refined tastes, and his remarkable sympathy made him an unusually interesting, a truly lovable character.

He was an uncommon man in the union of qualities that went to make his character. His good judgment was his strongest mental characteristic; and he united with this an unconquerable optimism. He was a person of breadth in all his views, but his intensity was equal to his breadth. He had a definite body of belief to which he was devoted, and which he held to be the truth; at the same time he was a man of the largest tolerance. These things merit attention.

That one whose judgment was generally so good should have been optimistic is significant. Professor Park, with whom he had a friendly relation covering a half century, called him, with a curious mixture of affection and impatience, his optimistic friend. The description was exact; but the value of it lay in the depth and truth of the judgment of this optimist. He saw the world and its exceeding sinfulness; but he saw more, — the world's conscience and industry and heroism and genial militant humanity. The world of traditional theology is one thing; God's world under God's redemptive government is another, and Samuel Johnson saw both. And while he was ready to praise the past, he delighted to expose the heathen fallacy that the former days were better than these. Some of the most memorable of his simple remarks at our Friday evening meetings were to this effect. When he felt that the past had been overpraised, it was his delight to rise in his place and remind us of the puerilities, and often something less honorable than puerilities, that occupied the mind of old Judge Sewall; of the fact that former ministers of the Old South Church kept slaves, and that occasionally when they advertised them for sale they revealed a kind of paternalism that was

not particularly edifying; and that the liquor bill of the church on the installation of a new pastor and teacher was more than once extraordinarily high. No one among us knew the history of the Old South Church as he did; no one had such ready stores of information upon its immediate and remote past. And the sweet sagacity which he brought to bear upon the life of former generations, when he felt that the Christianity of to-day was underrated, was one of his wholesomest traits. There are men who praise the dead in order to stab the living. To deal justly by the past and the present was part of his Christian purpose.

His general view of the world was full of hope. At a time of great stringency in doctrine he was received into the church notwithstanding his avowed rejection of the belief in everlasting punishment. No one could have been wiser than he in the use of his privilege. He never spoke upon the question in public; in private he did occasionally discuss it. His view of God, and God's world, and man's life in it, was deeply serious, and yet it was completely ruled by hope. Christ was to him the heart of God, the sure prophecy of man.

The union of breadth of view and intensity of missionary zeal must be noted. Of the

fallacy that a broad and optimistic creed cuts the nerve of missions he was the complete exposure. He was our broadest and most optimistic believer, and he was our largest and most enthusiastic supporter of foreign missions. As a matter of fact, narrow and hard men have often been persons of deep moral earnestness; and again, broad and hopeful views have been frequently held by those who did nothing for the extension of them. In Samuel Johnson this fact was shown to be no logical necessity. The larger and more hopeful the outlook was for man upon the earth, the more earnest was his desire to have part in the great missionary enterprise. In many persons the head and the heart do not go together. In the narrow and severe creed the heart is often immeasurably better than the head; while in the broad and inspiring belief the head is not seldom immeasurably superior to the heart. In our friend no such contradiction existed. His missionary zeal was fed from faith in the infinite love of God in Christ, for the whole world. His head was as large and true as his heart; and his heart was as sound and constant as his head.

He was a positive and at the same time a tolerant man. How difficult it often is for a true Trinitarian, as Mr. Johnson was, to appre-

ciate the merit of a genuine Unitarian; yet he said to me only last May, of a leading person in that order: "There is no more religious man in the Commonwealth." How hard it is for many men to speak kindly of a theological opponent,—the conservative has a grudge against the radical, and the radical returns the compliment with interest. This man was a radical,—a wise, devout, conscientious radical, and one eagerly bent upon the spread of his own views; and yet he was the friend of conservatives. He was deeply attached to the late Dr. William M. Taylor. The venerable Andover professor he counted among his permanent friends. Mr. Dwight L. Moody he sincerely loved. And Dr. Storrs, who describes himself as an old-fashioned New England minister, he greatly admired. His strong individuality kept him true to himself even under the influence of powerful and famous men, and at the same time free in his love and admiration for them. His home was one of rich and gracious hospitality. His guests included representative men of all types of honorable opinion and achievement. And whether conservative or radical, when he took to a man he took to him forever.

He was a magnanimous man. He went through the whole bitter controversy that arose

over the moving of the Old South Church; he saw many of the best people of Boston all wrong, and perversely wrong, upon the subject; he heard from many ministers of the gospel sheer and insolent nonsense directed against his cause by the weight of their high character; yet he came out of the ten years' fight with scarcely an enemy, with absolutely no resentments, and without a trace of bitterness in his memory of the great struggle. His splendid health, his complete confidence in his cause, his keen enjoyment of a noble fight, and his admirable capacity for it, together with his unfailing sense of humor and stalwart Christian faith, were the source of his serenity. An eminent astronomer, who died recently, said to me on one occasion: "Give Samuel Johnson my love. Tell him that I have known him since he was a boy, and that I never knew him to do a wrong thing, except the crime of moving the Old South Church." I gave the message, and I cannot forget either the genial amusement with which it was received, or the calm but serious reply made to it: "The dear old professor! My share in that work is the chief merit of my life."

Of Mr. Johnson's work for this church it is impossible to speak. In all that concerned its

welfare for the last forty years he was a leading spirit. He was one of the wisest, purest, strongest, and most esteemed servants that the Old South has ever had. With his best strength he fought for its life when that life was in gravest danger. For ten years he did an amount of work for it incalculable. And it was all done so quietly that only a few men in the community, only a few members of this church to-day, know his great and honorable part in that work. The church was the object of his love, his pride, his devotion, his joy and hope. Of the work of others for it he was the most appreciative of men. Those who followed him in the care of the society's interests, and in the administration of its trust, always found in him the same sympathetic spirit. Among his last words to me was a serious review of the work that other leading men had done in the church and in the society during the past twenty years ; and when I seemed to be indifferent to the recital, and to the names that he singled out for praise, he went over the subject for the second and third time. He seemed conscientiously anxious that I should see in just perspective the labors of others who were his contemporaries and friends in the church. It was delight in the honor that came to the

church that made him appreciate the large givers to its benevolence. He knew that there was great wealth here; and the advent of a new contributor, or the advance upon his record of an old contributor, gave him a noble satisfaction. That the gifts for foreign missions did not become less in the last fifteen years,—notwithstanding the greatly extended interest in other objects, and the fact that during that time the church lost members whose contributions to this cause, when put together, amounted to an annual offering of more than five thousand dollars,—was to him a constant source of delight. The line of fire was perpetually renewed, and now that his place in that line is vacant I am confident that it will not remain vacant. Others will feel themselves commissioned of the Lord, and the old total of gifts to this great cause will still be maintained. It was his pride in the Old South that made him so devoted as a parishioner. Of my own relations with him I may not speak; but I am bound to say how generously loyal he was to the last hour of life to my two nearest predecessors and to their households. He thought of them as part of the character of the church, and their devoted service as essential to its lasting honor and power. On account of his

love for the church he loved all its servants. He believed that it had done untold good in the world, and that it might advance upon its record for a thousand years to come. The Old South Church seemed to him likely to live, in its present character, to a remote future. It impressed his imagination as possessed of a perennial life. The seven generations of its members encouraged the faith that the seven might become seventy times seven.

For this reason he was most eager that the church should be in each generation a leading influence. The way of life both for a man and an institution he felt to be the same. Neither can do good by ignoring what is best in the present time, or by distrust of the new spirit that comes from God with every new generation. An ignorant or a narrow or a craven ministry he looked upon as a calamity. He knew the power of the church; and therefore he trembled at the thought of what it might do to arrest progress, as much as he rejoiced over what it might accomplish for progress. It might become a stone of stumbling, a rock of offense upon the path of advance, or it might become a new engine to speed forward the better day. This church had been set in an educated centre, assigned its place in the heart

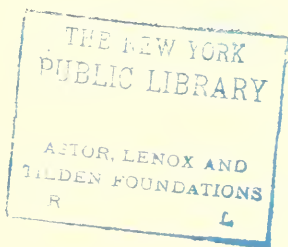
of large and varied human interests, given its work to do amid the noble and ignoble doubts and beliefs and contentions of men. He would have it look with sympathetic vision upon its wonderful environment. He would have it believing, broad, free, full of the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. He wished it to be like some masterful personality, capable of reading the signs of the times, and able to turn the new day into a day of the Lord. And we can but pray that in all the years that are to be, his wise, devout, and beneficent ideal for the Old South Church may never fail of controlling power.

It is impossible to associate sadness with this serene servant of God. From the beginning to the end, his life was one of the happiest. In health, in disposition, in abundant means, in high purpose and liberal opportunity, in the use of his powers, in the love of his family, the affectionate esteem of his friends, the gratitude of thousands, and the confidence of the community he was singularly happy. He was born into a home that devoutly sought for him the best things, and that remained with him to the end a golden memory, a benedictive presence in his tender and unforgetting heart. The home that he founded for himself was equally fortunate ; and for a generation it set

his life in the midst of the best influences, and strengthened him in the fulfillment of his highest purpose. It was his good fortune to win the affection of those for whose interests he cared; and they forgot the trustee in the friend and father. In his business associates he was one of the happiest of men; and fifty years of partnership meant a half century of friendship. Long life was granted to him. And when the close gave unmistakable signs that it could not be indefinitely delayed, he was still fortunate. He was without pain; he received and welcomed the outpouring of love from his many friends; he insisted that the final months of his life were the richest and best; and when the end came it was in sleep. He did not seem to die. "He was not, for God took him." He was not obliged to struggle while in the world; he did not struggle out of it. In the tender esteem of his friends, in the grateful affection of his kindred, in the dear love of his children, at peace with God and all the world, on Sunday morning, August 13, at sunrise, he passed from death unto life. The lines that he so loved are the symbol of the mysterious change and its sequel:—

"Christian, the morn breaks sweetly o'er thee,
And all its midnight shadows flee."





SKETCH BY REV. EDWARD G. PORTER

SAMUEL JOHNSON was a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The following brief history of his life was written by its president, the Rev. Edward G. Porter, A. M., and published in the society's magazine, January, 1900.

Samuel Johnson, a member of this society since 1870, was born on Somerset Street, Boston, 20 March, 1826. He was seventh in succession from James, who was admitted a freeman of Boston in 1636. Samuel Johnson, Senior, the father of our member, was born in Salem, 12 March, 1792; and the mother, Charlotte Abigail Howe, was born in Brookfield, 18 January, 1807.

Samuel Johnson, Jr., was the oldest son in a family of seven children, and a twin brother of Charlotte, who married the late Rev. James Howard Means, D. D., the esteemed successor of the Rev. Dr. Codman of Dorchester. The

home which our friend knew until he was eight years old was in Milton Place, off Federal Street, then a fine residence section. Afterward the family lived on Franklin Place until 1850, when the growth of business invaded that beautiful precinct.

"Sam," as he was commonly called by his friends, was sent to a boarding-school at Sandwich, kept by Captain Joseph Wing, while the twin sister was placed at a girls' school in the same town. His studies were continued at Chauncy Hall School in Boston, until the age of sixteen, when his father surprised him one evening by telling him he must be ready to go into a store the next day. So the boy took leave of his teacher, Mr. Thayer, and entered upon the new career which naturally appealed to his youthful ambition. He had to begin at the bottom of the ladder, and go to the store of Hovey, Williams & Co., an importing and jobbing house, then on Water Street, as early as six o'clock in the morning, to attend to the sweeping and dusting and making the fires, and then return home for his breakfast. He never regretted the drill which this experience gave him at the start, for it developed those qualities of order, industry, and alertness which are so essential in a mercantile life.

In 1846 the firm moved to Winter Street and formed a connection with John Chandler and Richard C. Greenleaf, who had been in the retail trade. A little later Washington Williams withdrew and Chandler took the old Central Church building, and the new firm assumed the name of C. F. Hovey & Co., which it bears to this day. Mr. Johnson became a partner about the same time, 1850, with Mr. Henry Woods and Mr. William Endicott, Jr., both of whom survive him in this long and honorable connection. Mr. Hovey, a native of Brookfield, died in 1859 at the age of fifty-two, and Mr. Greenleaf died in 1887. The firm moved to its present location on Summer Street in 1854.

For several years Mr. Johnson attended to the foreign department of the business, and made many trips to England, Paris, Lyons, Switzerland, and Germany, acquiring a large personal acquaintance with men and methods, which proved to be a practical advantage to the house. He was accustomed to give his close attention to the matter of purchasing, and when he had reached a decision he would abide by it without wavering. This saved him a good deal of worry. He often said that a business man could not afford to hesitate after once

making up his mind. While in Europe he was scrupulous in the use of his time, rarely visiting places of entertainment or indulging in late hours, as many of his companions were in the habit of doing. As a result he was always fresh and ready for his work.

Our friend was naturally of a quiet and amiable disposition and inclined to make the best of everything. In hard times, when most men were depressed, he was calm and even cheerful; and this was not owing to indifference, but to a well-balanced mind, to an unusually even and philosophic temper, which itself was worth a fortune to him. To this was added his strong, confiding Christian faith, which steadily grew with his years and seemed never to forsake him. The man who can carry such sunlight and equipoise with him into all the relations of life is a tower of strength to his family, his partners, his friends. As we look upon the familiar face which accompanies this sketch, we see the features which reveal the character — dignity, strength, refinement, kindness, patience, humor, all are there. Nothing is concealed. The soul shines through, and we are drawn to it instinctively for fellowship and support. Would that this type of manhood might find more frequent illustrations among us.

We are not surprised to find that the services of such a man were in great demand outside of his regular business; and happily Mr. Johnson was in such a position that he could give valuable counsel and assistance to a great many people. As a trustee of several of our largest estates, as well as of many smaller ones from which he often received no remuneration, he found a most useful and beneficent field for the exercise of his sound judgment and his unswerving integrity. He was also connected with many institutions of a financial, charitable, and educational character, such as the Provident Institution for Savings, the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, the Webster National Bank, the Y. M. C. A., the Institute of Technology, Wheaton Seminary, the Bible Society, the Boston Dispensary, and the Home for Aged Women. He was president of the American Congregational Association; and the last public service of his life was in presiding at the dedication of the new Congregational Building on Beacon Street. He was one of the founders of the Congregational Club, a member of the Bostonian Society, and an active participant in the meetings of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

But it was in his connection with the Old

South Church that Mr. Johnson found his most important and congenial work. For many years he was regarded as its foremost representative. During the trying period of the change of location, he was the guiding spirit of the majority; and although he encountered much criticism from certain quarters, his motives were never questioned, and he had the satisfaction of seeing the ancient church, for which he struggled, strongly established in its new home and doing its spiritual and philanthropic work on a larger scale than ever.

As a contributor to various charitable objects Mr. Johnson was widely known. The missionary societies found in him an intelligent and generous giver. The presidents of western colleges rarely came to Boston without calling upon him, and it is but fair to say that they seldom went away empty handed. He received them kindly, even when absorbed in other engagements. Hospitality was a characteristic trait of his life. He was one of the first to reside on Commonwealth Avenue, and his home at No. 7 was always dear to him—so much so indeed that he never could be persuaded to belong to many clubs, and he seldom went out evenings. His honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred by Williams Col-

lege in 1897, a just recognition of his eminent public service.

For twenty-five summers in succession our associate lived at Nahant, where he found needed rest on land and water, and where at last, on the 13th of August, 1899, he peacefully surrendered the burden of this mortal life at the ripe age of seventy-three.

Mr. Johnson was married 29th March, 1859, to Mary, daughter of Deacon Charles and Mary Abigail (Noble) Stoddard of Boston. Mrs. Johnson died 3d February, 1891. A memorial tribute to her, entitled "A Silver Cord Loosed," is in the society's library, as well as a printed sermon by Dr. Gordon in memory of Mr. Johnson's mother, who died April 3, 1888; and another sermon, just received, delineating the characteristic traits of our deceased friend. Mr. Johnson left two sons, Wolcott Howe Johnson and Arthur Stoddard Johnson, who with their families reside in this city.

TRIBUTE OF PRESIDENT CARTER

IN his Annual Report of Williams College, President Carter paid the following tribute to the memory of Samuel Johnson, giving facts that were hitherto unknown to his family: —

I cannot forbear to enter here a word of grateful recognition of the gifts of Mr. Samuel Johnson, now brought to a close by his death in August last. Mr. Johnson married a daughter of Charles Stoddard, Esq., of Boston, a loyal trustee and a devoted friend of the college for thirty-three years of Dr. Hopkins's administration. My first interview with Mr. Johnson was in 1870, when, a professor in the college, in connection with Professor Dimmock I visited Boston to secure if possible a few thousand dollars to complete the raising of twenty-five thousand dollars from friends of the college, necessary to obtain twenty-five thousand dollars that year from the State. Mr. Johnson received us with great cordiality. On becoming president

I turned to him for help. In my first annual report his name is entered as having given one thousand dollars for the Garfield professorship; but there are other subscriptions in that list of Garfield contributors for which the college is indebted to Mr. Johnson, who introduced me to various gentlemen, and used his personal influence to secure their help. It is proper for me to state now also that the twenty-five hundred dollars recorded in that report as given by a friend to the permanent endowment of the college was also given by Mr. Johnson. A contribution of one thousand dollars each was made by him and Mr. Samuel D. Warren for the repairs made on the president's house that same year. Thus in the first year of my administration the college received four thousand five hundred from his generous hand. I think not a year has passed without aid from him. When Professor Griffin was called to the Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Johnson authorized me to promise him five hundred dollars a year in addition to his salary, if he would remain with us. Dr. Griffin felt that he could not be put on a larger salary than his colleagues received, and declined the offer, but the offer itself was characteristic of Mr. Johnson's appreciation of the value to the college of a tried and proved man.

His total gifts to the college can hardly be less, since I became president, than fifteen thousand dollars. He was a man of large presence, of large mind, and of large heart. A devoted son of the Puritans, familiar and even learned in their history, he was a genial and delightful companion, and his loyalty to the Puritans never interfered with the development of the largest sympathies with every good cause and every good man. The illustrious Phillips Brooks and his successor in Trinity Church were among his warm personal friends, and the great concourse at his funeral, made up of all sorts and conditions of men, well attested the reach of his influence and the strength and beauty of his life. He was a very modest man. When the college, in accordance with the expressed wish of some of the most eminent men in Boston and vicinity, offered to make him last year Master of Arts, it took the combined persuasion of his pastor, Dr. Gordon, and his brother-in-law, Dr. Stoddard of New York, to induce him to accept the honor. He finally consented, and came up here to receive the degree, and enjoyed the occasion with all the exuberance and overflowing vitality and simplicity of a boy. His love for the college blended with his love for his wife, who was a daughter

both of a trustee and of the widow of a professor, William A. Porter.

The large place which he filled in the affection of his friends will henceforth be vacant, except that no one who knew him will fail to remember him often, or fail to feel the inspiring influence of his strong and gracious life.

THE FUNERAL SERVICES

THE funeral services, held in the Old South Church at noon, August 16, were reported as follows in the Boston "Transcript" and "Herald:" —

"In beautiful harmony with the sweet simplicity of the character and life of Samuel Johnson were the services held over his remains at noon to-day in the Old South Church, the house of worship he loved so well, and to which he gave his heart and soul. The great congregation that assembled to pay the last tribute of love and affection was not made up merely of his associates, — they were his friends. The officiating clergyman, President William J. Tucker, of Dartmouth College, who conducted the services in the absence of the pastor of the church, Rev. George A. Gordon, numbered Mr. Johnson among his most cherished acquaintances, and in his prayer alluded to him with a tenderness that was touching in the extreme. The floral tributes were many and beautiful, and came from associations and friends who modestly refrained from accompanying them with their names. There were few empty seats in the church, and the congregation, made up from all walks of life, was evidently deeply affected as the solemn services proceeded.

"Before the body was brought to the church, prayers were said at the family residence, 7 Commonwealth Avenue, at which only the immediate members of the family were present.

"Mendelssohn's funeral march was played by the organist of the church as the body was carried up the centre aisle to the chancel rail. The other musical numbers, favorites of Mr. Johnson, and sung by the quartet of the church, were the hymns, 'Christian, the morn breaks sweetly o'er thee,' 'The Lord My Pastures Shall Prepare,' and 'Hark, Hark My Soul.' President Tucker read selections from the Scriptures and offered prayer, and the services concluded with the singing of the last-named hymn.

"The remains were taken to Mount Auburn Cemetery and deposited by those of Mr. Johnson's wife.

"In the congregation were representatives of all the large dry-goods houses of Boston, which were closed during the hour of the funeral; directors of the Webster National Bank, the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, the Boston Dispensary, the Massachusetts Hospital Association, in all of which Mr. Johnson was a director; clergymen from the Andover Theological Seminary; and the employees of C. F. Hovey & Co.

"Out of respect for the memory of Mr. Johnson, the entire dry-goods trade of the city shut its doors between the hours of noon and one o'clock, and representatives of nearly every prominent firm in Boston, and many from outside, attended the funeral services.

"The pallbearers were: Mr. William Endicott, Mr. Henry Woods, Dr. Moses Merrill, Mr. Joseph H. Gray, Mr. E. Pierson Beebe, Dr. C. G. Weld, Mr. Thomas Motley, Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, Mr. John P. Lyman, and Mr. James H. Beal."

TWO ILLUMINATING INCIDENTS

IN the number of the "New York Observer" of August 31 was an article, signed "Augustus," entitled "Good Fruit from Good Trees," containing the following illustration : —

"The man who always looks upon the bright side of things, who has a cheerful word on his tongue and a natural smile on his face for every one whom he meets, is likely to be the generous helper of the poor and needy, the practical friend and adviser of the young and inexperienced and the ignorant and trustful. He will disappoint no confidence, and betray no secret. If his hope seems sometimes too bright, this is better than the dark clouds of doubt and despair, and in a world over which God reigns is far more likely to be a correct prophecy than the gloomy augury. Such a personality adds largely to the general happiness, comfort, and moral health of the world, for he encourages everything which makes for joy, peace, and soundness of body, mind, and soul. Such a man was Samuel Johnson, of Boston, whose beautiful life has been an inspiration literally to thousands of men and women with whom he came into personal contact, or whom he influenced unconsciously and as naturally as the stars shed light or the flowers perfume."

An incident brought to our attention through the

columns of the "Congregationalist" shows the interest Samuel Johnson took in young men. The article is entitled "A Characteristic Act:" —

"Something over twenty years ago, there sat one evening in the reading-room of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, on Eliot Street, a poor, unknown, and nearly friendless young man, who had gladly left his cheerless attic room in Dover Street for an evening in the bright, home-like rooms of the Association.

"During the evening a fatherly-looking gentleman entered, and, after looking over a magazine or two, sat down near this young man and presently entered into conversation. His kindly manner won the way into the young man's heart, and he soon found himself freely telling his new-found friend his hopes and his ambitions. The man at once was all interest, and for more than an hour devoted himself to encouraging this youth to work hard and he would surely win in both the business and the social world, and promised to do all he could for him.

"Renewed, stimulated, and awakened to the possibilities of his life, the young man followed the elder out of the building and parted on the corner. In due time the young man achieved an honorable place in Boston business and religious circles, and is to-day an efficient member of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Y. M. C. A. The lamented Samuel Johnson was the man who touched his life at that critical moment, as he did the lives of hundreds of other young men all through his long and helpful life. — S."

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

THE "Boston Book," published for the Second International Congregational Council, held in Boston, September 20-28, 1899, contained this statement and sketch of the life of Samuel Johnson:—

"One of the functions of the International Council anticipated with special interest is the collation and reception at the Vendome, Friday, September 22. It is an expression of the hospitality of the Congregational churches of Boston to the visiting delegates, to the religious organizations, and to representative citizens of the Commonwealth. It was conceived, planned, and provided for by MR. SAMUEL JOHNSON. Being warned that he might not live to see it, he carefully completed arrangements for it, with instructions that they should be carried out, in case he should die, as though he were living.

"His plans for this occasion illustrate his character. He at first expressed the wish that his name should not be mentioned in connection with the reception. He desired that it should appear as the act of the churches. Always thoughtful for others, broad in his plans, and generous in carrying them out, he sought the larger good without self-conscious-

ness. No layman could better stand as the representative of the Christian business men of Boston. Through his whole life he was identified with the Old South, the oldest and the leading Congregational church of the city. Always loyal to his pastor and his church, he wisely promoted the interests of the denomination and of the whole Christian church. With unblemished integrity, large and successful business experience, a kindness of spirit which beyond justice honored all claims on his service, a citizen valued and beloved, he passed to the life beyond suddenly and peacefully, Sunday morning, August 13, 1899, at the age of seventy-three years. He rests from his labors, and his works follow him."

The reception alluded to above was thus reported in the "Evening Transcript:" —

"An event which has been looked forward to with the most pleasant anticipation was the reception and collation given to the delegates of the Council at the Hotel Vendome this afternoon. It had been made possible by the thoughtfulness and liberality of Samuel Johnson, who, just before his death, not only had made provision for its accomplishment, but had named the gentlemen whom it was his desire should act as the reception committee, chief among them being his pastor, Rev. George A. Gordon, D. D., of the Old South Church. It was the design of Mr. Johnson that an opportunity should be given the clergy of the Protestant churches of Boston, without regard to the denominations which they represented,

to meet in an informal manner the delegates to the International Congregational Council, that they might become better acquainted, and the brotherly influence of the Council be extended into circles which it might not otherwise reach.

"This plan was carried out to-day in the most thorough and practical manner. The parlors and large dining-room of the hotel had been secured, and invitations sent out to thirteen hundred ladies and gentlemen, including representatives of the state and city governments, clergymen and laymen of the Protestant churches, and the five hundred delegates. They began assembling at 12.30 o'clock, and as fast as they arrived they were met by a large body of ushers, who conducted them into the parlor, where they were presented to the reception committee, in the following order : Rev. George A. Gordon, D. D., Samuel B. Capen, W. Y. Whittemore, Rev. Edward Sampson Tead, Rev. M. M. Cutter, Rev. H. A. Bridgman, and Rev. D. W. Waldron. These gentlemen were all chairmen of the various committees. Passing into an adjoining parlor, the guests formed little groups, and, chatting cordially, continued on to the dining-room, where the elegant lunch was served. Then came the greetings, the introductions, and the exchange of courtesies which form so delightful an accompaniment of food served standing. The company, which numbered fully 1000, dispersed with as little ceremony as it assembled."

At the session of the Congregational Council held

Friday morning, September 22, Mr. Samuel B. Capen, in speaking of this reception, made the following suggestion :—

“‘ In recognition of this act of our beloved brother, we wish to send to his grave a floral tribute this morning. The tribute has been provided by the Congregational Club, and I ask that the chairman select four delegates to bear that tribute to his grave.’ The chairman appointed as such committee Rev. J. W. Strong, D. D., of Minnesota, Rev. W. J. Woods, D. D., of England, Rev. Dr. Burnham, of St. Louis, and Rev. James Wyllie, of Belfast. The following-named reception committee at the Vendome was appointed by the chairman, taken from members of the Congregational Club, and named by Mr. Johnson shortly before his death : Rev. D. W. Waldron, Rev. E. S. Tead, Rev. M. M. Cutter, Rev. H. A. Bridgman, Rev. George A. Gordon, and W. F. Whittemore.”

The carrying out of this action was entered on the records of the Second Congregational Council as follows :—

“The report which your committee has the honor to present is simply such a statement of procedure as is necessary to a complete and satisfactory record of the Council’s action. Early in the sessions of this Council, upon motion of Hon. Samuel B. Capen, of Massachusetts, it was unanimously voted—to quote the phraseology used—‘that the Rev. President James W. Strong, D. D., of Minnesota, Rev. William J. Woods, B. A., of England, secretary of the Congre-

gational Union of England and Wales, Rev. Michael Burnham, D. D., of Missouri, and Rev. James Wylie, of Ireland, chairman of the Irish Congregational Union, be constituted a committee of the Council to bear a tribute of flowers to the grave of Samuel Johnson, so dearly beloved by us all, who, before his death, had invited the delegates of the Council, many prominent Congregational ministers and laymen, and representatives of other denominations, to a reception and collation at the Hotel Vendome.'

"On the morning of the twenty-second of September this committee fulfilled the wish of the Council and completely covered with flowers the graves of Samuel Johnson and Mrs. Johnson — side by side — in the cemetery at Mount Auburn. The chairman made brief remarks, and read selections from the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John and the twenty-second chapter of Revelation. Dr. Burnham offered prayer, and all the members of the delegation shared in arranging the flowers upon the grave. Thus, by their representatives in this International Council, the Congregational churches on both sides of the Atlantic honored the memory of their beloved and revered dead.

"In behalf of the committee,

"JAMES W. STRONG, *Chairman.*"

LETTERS

A FEW extracts from letters received by members of the family show to some degree the impressions Samuel Johnson made on his friends.

A clergyman writes : —

“I preached at the Old South Church yesterday, and a man said to me in substance, ‘I have had considerable to do with Mr. Samuel Johnson for several years past. I never called at his office to find him too busy to have an interview with me, or failing to greet me with a smile and a pleasant word.’ That is my testimony during the twenty-seven years I was acquainted with your father. Apart from his pleasant, cordial way, all are thinking now of what he has been to the cause of missions at home and abroad, to multitudes who sought his counsel and aid, and to the Old South Church that he has wisely guided in many a time of anxiety.

“I am sorry for this world that he is to be with us no more, — glad for him that he has entered into possession of the inheritance of the saints, made the larger and richer by the treasures he laid up in heaven.”

A life-long friend of the family writes : —

“It was Longfellow — was it not? — who said, ‘The thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts.’

"To me, at least, they cling like burrs. A crowd of them are at this moment passing through my mind as if a panorama were being unrolled before me. I have been thinking, back through the years, of the many kindnesses which your brother Samuel has shown me, not only here but in Europe also, where I met him repeatedly.

"I have been reflecting how many scores of other men must remember him in the selfsame spirit that I do. It is safe to say that hundreds of people do now share with me a keen sense of personal obligation to him.

"Assuredly there were few things that gave him greater pleasure than the doing of kindness to other people. It was his nature to act in that way, and it was his high privilege to have been able so to act through life.

" ' His was the generous spirit which, when brought
Among the tasks of real life, both wrought
Upon the plan that pleased his youthful thought.'

"It is only too true that neither the friends of such a man, nor the community at large, can afford to spare him. It is hard indeed to reconcile one's self to the decision that he should be taken from us. But surely, dear friend, you must take unending comfort in the thought that your brother played his part in life thoroughly well ; that his influence while he was with us was exerted constantly for righteousness ; and that the memory of this influence and of his example will long endure.

"I wish it were in my power to tell you how truly I sympathize with you in these hours of grief."

One who had lived in the home and knew Samuel Johnson thoroughly writes : —

“Touching quality of spirit, your father was one of the few great men it has been my pleasure to know. I never saw a trait of meanness nor any sort of pusillanimity in him. I do not know any man from whom little meannesses were so far removed. He seemed utterly incapable of harboring an unworthy thought. It was always an inspiration to be near him, and feel the uplift of his spirit of cheerful hopefulness.

“It is no small obligation resting upon all of us who knew him, that we do something to carry on his work and spread his spirit.”

The following extract is given as showing the impression made by Mr. Johnson's personality upon one who met him, for the first and only time, a few days before his death. It is from a letter written to Mr. Johnson's brother by a prominent Episcopal clergyman in the city of New York : —

August 14, 1899.

MY DEAR MR. JOHNSON, — I have just seen in the “Boston Herald” the sad intelligence of the death of your brother, whom it was my pleasure to have met at your house in Bar Harbor. I was impressed with the loveliness of his character, the sweetness of his disposition, his courtly urbanity, and the charm of his conversation ; and his sudden death has filled me with great sorrow. I can truly sympathize with

you in your great loss. I am sure that all will feel the truth of the comment of the "Herald," — "To everybody who knew him, either in business, religious, or social life, his death will cause profound and universal sorrow." And what must be his loss to you! I am so glad that it was my good fortune to have had the pleasure of meeting and knowing him. I had no idea then that his death was so near. And now, full of years and honor, it is a comfort to think of his enjoyment of the rest that remaineth for the people of God. May he enjoy perpetual rest, and may light eternal shine upon him! I am, with the tenderest sympathy,

Faithfully yours.

Other friends write : —

"Blest with a good parentage and an enviable position, a fine physique and good health, he had the crowning blessing of a sunny and delightful temper, which made intercourse with him a continual joy. Prudence and sagacity he also possessed, and consequently the universal esteem of his fellow-citizens and personal friends."

"It would be supremely unworthy not to give thanks over such a character, — a life so pure, disinterested, wise, and crowded with all high and beautiful service for the Kingdom of God.

"To have had such a father is enough to give us faith in God and his love forever, for only God could have given, sustained, kept, and increased such a life.

“It will be the comfort of your life to discover more and more the richness and power of your father’s nature, to enter into the sense of the wonderful wisdom of the man and the greatness of his life.

“If we had lost him, our grief would be inconsolable. He was first in everything good, and he was a leading character everywhere. To his family, his church, his friends, and all good causes among us, he was without a peer. God make us all worthy of his friendship, and ennoble our love, increase our devotion, and keep us in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ until we meet him again in our Father’s home.”

“When we think of what he accomplished, and of how much good he did, how many in all parts of the world are stronger men and women to-day because he was born into it and lived seventy-three years, we bow before our Creator in perfect resignation and gratitude, and offer our praises and thanksgivings that we were permitted to live when he lived, and to draw from him the sweet influences of true discipleship and of an unquestioned faith.”

RESOLUTIONS

THE following resolutions passed by some of the many corporations and other organizations with which Samuel Johnson was actively identified manifest the opinion of those with whom he was associated:—

MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Board of President and Directors of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company held September 13, 1899, the following paper was presented and adopted:—

Whereas, a member of this Board, Mr. Samuel Johnson, has since our last meeting been removed from us by death, we, his fellow members, would express our deep sorrow for the loss of an esteemed associate, who for nearly twenty years has rendered valuable service to the Company.

We have always looked to him for aid and advice in the management of the affairs of the Company, and have found in him a wise counselor, reliable, and ever ready and willing to give us the benefit of that wide experience and sound judgment that have made him a leader in the community.

In all our intercourse with him his courtesy and

kindliness have endeared him as a friend, and we have ever felt the presence of an able, faithful, and earnest officer and courteous gentleman.

Voted, that this paper be entered upon our records, and a copy sent by the Secretary to the family of Mr. Johnson.

Attest : J. C. BRAMAN, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL WEBSTER BANK OF BOSTON.

BOSTON, August 15, 1899.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held this day, it was

Resolved, that the members of this Board regret their great loss in the death of Samuel Johnson, their esteemed and faithful associate for more than twenty years ; an upright and benevolent man, whose generous aid was never sought in vain, whose counsels guided large affairs to successful issue, whose zeal was untiring in support of measures and institutions identified with the welfare of his fellow citizens.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to his family, to whom we tender our profound sympathy in their bereavement.

C. L. RIDDLE,
Clerk of the Board.

THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

BOSTON, Oct. 16, 1899.

The managers of the Boston Dispensary desire to enter upon the record their appreciation of the long continued and devoted service of their late asso-

ciate, Mr. Samuel Johnson, as a member of the Board.

He was for thirty-six years a manager of the Boston Dispensary, and for the last six years of his term its chairman. He gave his whole heart and hand to the work. In counsel he was always ready and responsive, and possessed the vigor and enthusiasm of youth, as well as the sound judgment of mature age. In work he placed no limit upon his time and strength. It was a pleasure to be associated with him on this Board, and his memory will be an inspiration to those who follow in the work.

THE AMERICAN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Samuel Johnson, the President of the American Congregational Association, having been called from the earthly to the better life, the Board of Directors desires to place on record its appreciation of his splendid service. An eminently successful business man, having the care of very large trusts, he brought to his position the qualities we most needed.

It was a very happy providence which gave him to us to be our President during the time of the building of our New Congregational House.

In every important question that arose his wisdom and sagacity were extremely helpful. With positive convictions, he was always most courteous, and his presence with us in all our gatherings was a benediction.

Missing him as we shall here, we rejoice in the greatness of his life work, and the influence he has still left of a noble Christian character.

Voted, That a copy of this minute be sent to Mr. Johnson's family, with an expression of our most sincere sympathy in their great loss.

SAMUEL B. CAPEN,
JOSHUA COIT,
Committee.

Boston, December 18, 1899.

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN
MISSIONS.

BOSTON, August 16, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR, — At the meeting of the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions held yesterday afternoon, after information had been given of the death of your honored father, and remarks made by several members expressive of profound regard for his high character and services, the following minute, which I enclose herewith, was unanimously adopted, and direction given that a copy be forwarded to you.

The Committee also appointed its chairman and the secretaries to represent the Board at the funeral services to-day.

At a meeting of the Prudential Committee held Tuesday, August 15, 1899, the following minute was adopted, and direction given that a copy be sent to the family of Mr. Johnson : —

The Prudential Committee desires to put on record an expression of its high appreciation of the worth and services of Samuel Johnson, Esq., of whose recent and sudden death the Committee has learned

with profound sorrow. His high character as a Christian gentleman, his wisdom in counsel, his constant interest in every good object, his lifelong advocacy of the cause of foreign missions, as well as his unfailing and most generous gifts, have endeared him to all the members of the American Board, and we deeply mourn over the loss which the churches of Christ and the cause of missions have sustained in his death.

E. E. STRONG,
Clerk pro tem.

THE OLD SOUTH SOCIETY.

Mr. Samuel Johnson, A. M., was elected a member of the Standing Committee of the Old South Society in 1860, succeeding his father on the Board, who had held the office from the incorporation of the Society in 1845. He was made chairman of the Committee in 1872, and resigned the office in 1881. He was elected treasurer in 1887, and continued in office until he died, August 13, 1899.

We find this record when he resigned the chairmanship of the Standing Committee in 1881: "Mr. Johnson had served on the Committee twenty-one years (nine years as its chairman), Mr. Kimball twenty-four years, Mr. Payson sixteen years, and Mr. C. L. Pitkin eleven years. These gentlemen felt that the time had come when other persons in the increasing number of the church and congregation would be willing to assume the duties and responsibility of the position, with no abatement of interest,

however, on their part in promoting the prosperity of the Old South Society and with no desire to be relieved from any service that the church and Society may demand."

We can testify that these gentlemen, all of whom have gone to their reward, were true to the resolution expressed when they resigned their offices.

Mr. Johnson's church home from his birth was the Old South. Therefore he had no divided interest.

It would be difficult to give adequate expression of the value of his service to this Society since 1870. While he was cordially supported by many proprietors of pews in the proposed sale of the old meeting house and the removal of the church to another site, he was persistently opposed by other proprietors, and the burden of the contest rested on him as chairman of the Standing Committee.

To-day, as never before, we are willing to acknowledge his eminent service so freely and unstintedly given, and to rejoice in the victory that he won. We revere his memory for his loyalty to this Society during the long period he was a trustee, for his sagacity, keen insight, and wise administration in all of his official connection with this corporation.

In the history of this Society his name will always be conspicuous for his devotion, eminent services, and large-heartedness in promoting its highest welfare for the cause of Christ and humanity.

(Signed)

MOSES MERRILL,
CHARLES A. MORSS,
WILLIAM H. PITKIN,
Committee.

THE BOSTON YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, the Boston Young Men's Christian Association has suffered a great loss by the death of its beloved friend and trustee, Mr. Samuel Johnson, who in the providence of God was called from this life August 13, 1899; be it

Resolved, that we hereby seek to give expression to the valuable services rendered to the Association by our lifelong friend, whose untiring efforts, wisdom, and liberality were instrumental in a large measure in securing for us our present building, and whose influence has won to the Association many valuable friends and supporters.

Resolved, that we further record our appreciation of his valuable services as trustee of the Association, and his great personal assistance in sustaining the work of the Association by his liberal contributions during his life and substantial remembrance by bequest.

Resolved, that his consistent Christian life has been an inspiration to young men, being an example of justice, integrity, generosity, and devotion to duty, and that in his death the Association has lost one of its most valued friends and counselors.

Resolved, that we hereby tender our heartfelt sympathy to the family of the deceased, and that these resolutions shall be entered upon the records of the Board of Directors, and that the Recording Secretary shall be requested to forward a copy of the same to the family of the deceased.

THE BOSTON YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The managers of the Boston Young Women's Christian Association record their deep sense of loss in the death of their esteemed adviser and Auditor, Mr. Samuel Johnson. His wise counsel and business services, ever rendered in his modest, patient, courteous, Christian spirit, have been most helpful. They are grateful that they have been permitted to enjoy his generous attention and gifts these many years. They appreciate the renewed proof of his most liberal remembrance. They desire to express to the family of Mr. Johnson their sincere sympathy in their great sorrow.

PAULINE A. DURANT,
President.

Vote passed at the meeting of the Board of Managers, September 5, 1899.

HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.

BOSTON, October 26, 1899.

Resolutions adopted by the Board of Managers :—

Whereas, since our last quarterly meeting, by the death of Samuel Johnson we have been deprived of the long and faithful service he has rendered this institution,

Resolved, that we hold in cherished recollection the many virtues of his personal character, mature judgment, and warm and zealous spirit, and in common with the community at large we mourn the loss of a life of eminent usefulness in many branches of philanthropic work.

Resolved, that the above resolution be entered upon the records of the meeting, and that a copy of the same be transmitted to the family of the deceased in token of our sympathy in their bereavement.

Also in the annual report of the Home for Aged Women the following appeared :—

“In many spheres of benevolent activity he will be greatly missed, but nowhere more than here. This institution was an object of constant interest to him, and of his unfailing care, and was served by him with a steady assiduity and fidelity. His uniform presence at the managers’ meetings, his sagacious judgment, his wise counsels, his genial courtesy, will be sadly missed.”

THE OLD-BOSTON CONGREGATIONAL CLUB.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Johnson, an original member of this Club, and one of the principal promoters of its foundation and of its prosperity during the eight years of its existence, was called to immortal life August 13 last, and

Whereas, we, the present members of the Club, desire to place on record our tribute to his memory, therefore

Resolved, that the members of the Old-Boston Congregational Club will ever cherish the memory of this beloved and honored fellow member and brother, for the integrity of a self-respecting life, for his unblemished character in business and Christian obligations, for his untiring devotion to the interests

of our denomination, for his liberal and far-reaching benevolence, for the serenity of his life, and his unquestioned faith in the redeeming love of Christ conspicuously manifested during his last illness.

Resolved, that many educational and religious institutions have lost an appreciative friend and generous contributor, and many poor whom we do not know will rise and call him blessed.

Resolved, that copies of this expression of our respect be made a part of our records and sent to the sons of the late Mr. Johnson.

MOSES MERRILL,
FRANK E. BUNDY,
FRANK W. WYMAN.

PROPRIETORS OF THE CEMETERY OF MOUNT AUBURN.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, held on November 16, 1899, the following resolutions were adopted :—

Voted, that we wish to enter on our records our high appreciation of our late associate, Samuel Johnson. Upon his judgment and ability we could always rely, and his long financial experience and business capacity eminently fitted him to perform the duties of a trustee. We feel also that by his death we have lost a true friend, whose courteous manners and cheerful, buoyant temper endeared him to all.

Voted, that the Secretary be directed to send a copy of these votes to the family and relatives of our lamented friend.

A true copy.

Attest: LEWIS G. FARMER,
Secretary.

*" Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.*

*" So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."*

